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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone.... NATIONAL PARK

FILE No. 143

MONTHLY REPORT

January, 1925

YELLOWSTONE
NATIONAL PARK
LIBRARY

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JANUARY, 1925

919.879

February 10, 1925

Dear Sir:

The following is my report on conditions in the Yellowstone National Park and on the operation of the park for the month of January, 1925:

I. GENERAL CONDITIONS

Weather

The following records are quoted from the report for January of the Observer in charge of the local United States Weather Bureau at Mammoth Hot Springs, Park Headquarters:

Temperature: Monthly mean, 20.6° , is 3.0° above normal. Moderate temperatures prevailed generally throughout the month. No unusual extremes occurred, the highest being 42° on the 30th, and the lowest -5° on the 26th. No cold waves occurred, there being but two days with temperature slightly below zero.

Precipitation: Total, 1.32 inches, is 0.92 inch below normal. All occurred as snowfall.

Snowfall: Total 14.3 inches; normal 20.0 inches. Unsettled weather prevailed during the month, and snow, generally light, was of almost daily occurrence. The greatest depth on the ground was 19.0 inches on the 21st, while at the end of the month there were 17.8 inches.

Wind: Average hourly velocity, 10.9 miles, is the greatest for January in the past 12 years. The maximum velocity was 37 miles per hour from the south on the 5th and 23rd.

Sunshine: Percentage of possible 36; normal 39.

Snow Depths

Snow depths throughout the park at the close of the month were reported as follows, and for comparative purposes the snow depths for January 31, 1924, are also given:

<u>Station</u>	<u>1924</u>	<u>1925</u>
Mammoth	12.8	18.5
Riverside	28.0	33.0
Callatin	23.0	29.0
Norris	22.0	33.0
Slough Creek, Upper		36.0
Slough Creek, Lower	18.0	28.0
Beshler	45.00 (12/31-24)	52.0
Santa River	40.0	49.0
Thumb	28.0	38.0
Lake	22.0	35.0
Upper Yellowstone	42.0	48.0
Canyon	26.0	46.0
Tower Falls	16.0	25.0
Buffalo Ranch	14.0	36.0
Soda Butte Station	22.0	37.0
Soda Butte Cabin		22.0
Hellroaring	16.0	18.0
Sylvan Pass	16.0	35.0
Two Ocean Pass	6 ft.	

There is 30 inches of snow at Cold Creek; 46 inches on the Divide between Lake and Thumb; 3 ft. at Hellroaring Forest Ranger Station and 5 ft. on Buffalo Plateau; Fox Creek, Thorofare Divide, 58 inches; Grayling 56 inches; Upper Geyser Basin 37 inches; Continental Divide, South Riverside District, 104 inches; South Riverside Cabin 92 inches; Norris-Canyon Divide 57 inches.

Temperatures have been moderate throughout the month, ranging generally above zero, and snow depths are considerably in excess of last year.

Travel

No visitors were registered at any of the park entrances during the month.

Roads

Freighting operations, via sleigh, have been conducted between Gardiner and Cooke City at intervals during the month. The mail schedules have consisted of one trip each week, the stage leaving Gardiner on Sunday morning. The snow plow has been used frequently since the first of the year in order to keep the roads at headquarters open to traffic. Autos have traveled freely between Gardiner and Mammoth at all times this season.

II. ADMINISTRATION OF THE PARK

Personnel

On January 1st there were 62 employees on the payrolls, and this number was neither increased nor decreased during the month. The following list shows the number of appointees of various classes serving during the month, with a general statement of the kind of work in which they were engaged:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Kind of Work Performed</u>
1	Superintendent	General administration and supervision of all activities in the park.
2	Asst. Superintendents	1 in charge of administration, purchasing, disbursing; 1 in charge of property, equipment, transportation, cost accounts, inventories, etc., also acting as Assistant to Superintendent in capacity as Field Assistant to the Director.
2	Asst. Engineers	1 in charge of engineering work; (1 furloughed Jan. 14th).
4	Clerks	1 Cost Accounting Clerk; 1 Personnel and File Clerk; 1 Clerk on orders, proposals and vouchers and timekeeping and payroll work; 1 stenographer-typist on Superintendent's correspondence and handling miscellaneous work on administrative side of office.

No.	Class	Kind of Work Performed
3	Electricians	Operated power plant regular shift, including Sundays, read meters, did necessary line work.
3	Foremen	1 in charge of headquarters corral and freighting work about headquarters; 2 on work in shops.
3	Telephone Switchboard Operators	Permanent operator on furlough; 2 temporary WAB operators regular shifts.
1	Master Mechanic	In charge of shops and of repair to machinery.
2	Blacksmiths	General blacksmith work, including shoeing of horses in shop, repairing tools and equipment.
1	<i>Master Painter</i>	
1	Master Plumber	In charge of general plumbing and water and sewer systems.
2	Auto Mechanics	1 on duty in power plant; 1 on repair work.
3	Laborers	Teaming, freighting, assisting mechanics and miscellaneous work at headquarters.
1	Steward & Master of Transportation	In charge of all transportation and of storehouses.
1	Chief Buffalo Keeper	In charge of Lower Buffalo herd.
1	Asst. Buffalo Keeper	In charge of hay ranch operations at Slough Creek.
1	Buffalo Herder	Assisting buffalo keeper.
1	Park Naturalist	Scientific research work and developing museum.
1	Chief Park Ranger	In charge of ranger force.
1	1st Asst. Chief Ranger	In charge of Northern District.
2	Assts. Ch. Park Ranger	1 on duty at Lake District; 1 in charge of Western Supervisory Territory.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Kind of Work Performed</u>
22	Park Rangers (17 WAE)	Patrolling, protecting game and miscellaneous duties.
4	Park Rangers, Temporary. (3 WAE)	Patrolling, protecting game, and miscellaneous duties.

Leaves of Absence

James H. Dupuis, Park Ranger, Jan. 2, 1 day.
 Forest L. Carter, Park Ranger, Jan. 1-4, 2 days.
 Charles W. Enochs, Foreman, Jan. 8-9 (noon), 1½ days.
 Charles Stimmott, Blacksmith, Jan. 10 (noon), 1/2 day.
 Anna E. Madsen, Clerk, Jan. 3 (noon), 1/2 day.
 Julia S. Stockett, Clerk, Jan. 3 (noon), 1/2 day.
 Harry McFarland, Foreman, Jan. 8-10, 3 days.
 William I. Davis, Asst. Engineer, Jan. 1-14, 11 days.
 Leroy Hill, Asst. Supt., Jan. 27, 1/2 day.
 Arthur Jacobson, Park Ranger, Jan. 27-31, 5 days.
 Julia S. Stockett, Clerk, Jan. 24 (noon), 1/2 day.
 Wm. H. Riley, Auto Mechanic, Jan. 24, 1 day.
 Leroy Hill, Asst. Supt., Jan. 24, 1/2 day.
 Charles W. Enochs, Foreman, Jan. 24, 1 day.
 Charles Stimmott, Blacksmith, Jan. 17 (noon), 1/2 day.
 Peter E. Bilkert, Asst. Supt., Jan. 1-6, 4 days.
 Andrew R. Edwin, Clerk, Jan. 21 (noon), 1/2 day.
 Deane T. White, Foreman, Jan. 21, 1 day.
 Harry McFarland, Foreman, Jan. 31 (noon), 1/2 day.
 Julia S. Stockett, Clerk, Jan. 31 (noon), 1/2 day.
 Anna E. Madsen, Clerk, Jan. 31 (noon), 1/2 day.
 Peter E. Bilkert, Asst. Supt., December 20-31, 9 days. Not
 previously reported.

Sick Leave

Arthur Jacobson, Park Ranger, Jan. 3-26, 24 days.

Leave Without Pay

Hellie Beach, Telephone Operator, January 1-31.
 Daniel W. Tripp, Laborer, January 1-31.

Furloughed

William I. Davis, Assistant Engineer at \$250 per month, NAE, furloughed close January 14th.

Promotions

Peter E. Bilkert, Assistant Superintendent, at \$2400, promoted to \$2500 effective January 1, 1925.

Andrew R. Edwin, Clerk at \$1680, promoted to Clerk at \$1740, effective January 1, 1925.

Joseph Joffe, Clerk, at \$1680, promoted to Clerk at \$1740, effective January 1, 1925.

Julia S. Stockett, Clerk, at \$1560, promoted to Clerk at \$1620, effective January 1, 1925.

Anna E. Madson, Clerk, at \$1560, promoted to Clerk at \$1620, effective January 1, 1925.

Alfred C. D. Henman, Laborer, at \$1320, promoted to Laborer at \$1380, effective January 1, 1925.

Office Force Activities

During the month of January 1,105 pieces of official mail were received and 1,072 were sent out.

Finances

Costs of Operation, etc.: The cost of operating the park for the month of January, 1925, will be shown on the Monthly Cost Accounting Report which will go forward as soon as prepared.

Revenues:

Sale of Electricity:

Certified check #823, dated January 16, 1925, drawn by Vernon Goodwin on the National Bank of Montana, Helena, Montana, to the Director, National Park Service, amount 2.75

Certified check #466, dated January 16, 1925,
drawn by George Whittaker on the National Park
Bank, Livingston, Montana, to the Director,
National Park Service, amount 4.65

Buffalo sold for hide and head:

Money order #59503, dated Jan. 19, 1925, drawn
by the Postmaster at Yellowstone Park, on the
Postmaster at Washington, D. C., amount 100.00

Money order #59504, dated Jan. 19, 1925, drawn
by the Postmaster at Yellowstone Park, on the
Postmaster at Washington, D. C., amount 25.00

(Both of above amounts from Joseph Conley,
Salt Lake City, Utah.)

Sale of water:

Certified check #837, dated January 27, 1925,
drawn by Vernon Goodwin on the National Bank of
Montana, Helena, Montana, to the Director, amount 75.00

Plans, Maps and Surveys

The work of the Engineering Department has consisted chiefly of working up notes on surveys made last fall and making plans for the coming season. Assistant Engineer Davis is away on furlough.

Report on Commissary & Transportation

The Master of Transportation reports the completion of inventories for all departments. The necessary freighting from Gardiner was accomplished by one truck driver.

III. MAINTENANCE OF IMPROVEMENTS AND FACILITIES

Grounds

Only very necessary work, such as hauling coal, wood, ice and garbage, and the clearing of the roads with a snow plow

was done in this department. Because of the frequent deep snows a great deal of time was spent on the roads about headquarters in an effort to keep them open.

Annual Ice Harvest

A total of 231.84 tons of ice was put up during the three days devoted to ice harvesting of the government supply. Men from the regularly appointed force did the work under the supervision of Foreman McFarland.

The Camps Company put up about 250 tons, and the Hotel Company put up approximately 300 tons.

Electrical and Telephone Systems

The Acting Chief Electrician wired the Superintendent's office for the installation of an electrical hot water heater; put in wall receptacles at the following quarters: Joffe, Robinson, Rouman and McDonalds; and worked relief shifts occasionally at the power plant.

The Power Plant was operated in the usual manner. It was run constantly with the results shown in comparison with those of January, 1924, as follows:

	<u>1924</u>	<u>1925</u>
Total current generated in KW hours	38,260	47,040
Of this, sold to public utilities		
at 5¢ per KWH	3,141	3,808.4
Consumed for street lighting	1,720	2,781.
Balance, consumed in government		
buildings, for power and light-		
ing, and lost on lines in transit	33,399	40,450.6
Peak load during month in KWH	112	106

The Telephone and Switchboard Office was open daily from 7:30 A.M. to 8:30 P.M. The total business handled was as follows:

	<u>1924</u>	<u>1925</u>
On Government Local lines	2225	2915
On Hotel Company lines	259	309
On Long Distance	84	74
	<u>2568</u>	<u>3298</u>

Water and Sewer Systems

A hot water heater was installed in the Superintendent's office.

General maintenance and repair work was done to water and sewer systems at Mammoth.

Machinery and Equipment

Seven F.W.D. trucks and one Rec Speed wagon were overhauled. Three new truck bodies were built. The blacksmith repaired all shovels, picks and axes.

The greater part of the time of the Master Painter was spent in cleaning and painting equipment. Seven dump wagons were painted; three Ford one-ton trucks varnished; four sprinkler trucks varnished and three freight trucks varnished.

Inside work at Bilkert's quarters was finished early in the month.

V. PROTECTION DEPARTMENT

Patrols

Special ranger patrols during the month are noted briefly as follows:

Chief Ranger Woodring. Mammoth to Buffalo Ranch and return, 5th-8th, inclusive. This trip was in connection with the segregation, castrating and weaning of buffalo calves, and the disposition of 8 selected undesirable members of the herd.

Chief Ranger Woodring. Mammoth to Tower Falls, Slough Creek, Buffalo Ranch and return via Rollinsring, 25th-30th, inclusive, on tour of inspection with particular reference to buffalo and elk conditions.

First Assistant Chief Ranger Trischman. On tour of Northern Supervisory territory from the 23rd to 31st, inclusive, to observe and report wild animal conditions in general and elk and deer in particular.

market, etc., total 98, which, together with the loss of 12 reported this month, make a grand total of 110, leaving a herd total at this time of 670. The herd as now constituted is in splendid condition.

Buffalo, Gallatin Flats Herd: I have nothing to add to the recorder report on this herd except to remark that the January count of 211 seen animals is large compared to the report of the patrol of the preceding month. However, at this time only 20 buffalo were seen as compared with 25 on the preceding month. They appeared to be well conditioned.

Bears: It may be of interest to remark that 2 of the seven bears reported at Lake Station last month have been appearing daily for a hand out until the 24th; they have not been seen since that date and curiously enough, a badger that had also been making daily calls has not appeared since the 24th.

Small Animals: Wolf signs are reported from all areas. Wolves are active at Lemhi and Lake. Other reports are from the Yellowstone Lake and Gallatin River and they have been recently reported on the Snake River. Mountain sheep are plentiful in the Madison and Teton Rivers and now lower mountains are reported from Bechler.

Protege Animals: Lion signs were observed at the seven mile bridge on the Snake River on the 9th.

A lynx sign was recently reported at Sportmens Lake and a lynx is reported to have been recently killed by a trapper at a point near the thirty-four mile post, West Lemhi, outside the park.

The coyote returns this season are disappointing despite renewed and persistent efforts; they have consistently refused to be baited and rangers have come within rifle range of only a very few. No kills for the month total 15, which, together with 131, previously reported, make a total this season to date of 146 as compared with 139 to January 31st, 1921.

Small Mammals: Small mammal trapping during the month consisted of the following: 100 buffalo calves of the 1921 crop were cut out from the main herd on the 5th and have since been fed at the Buffalo Ranch. 27 tons of hay were fed at this point during the month. The main body of the Lamar River Buffalo herd was re-

moved from the Buffalo Ranch to Slough Creek on the 7th, where feeding was resumed and has been continued throughout the month. Buffalo and elk feeding at Slough Creek have accounted for 102 tons of hay.

The feeding of Park Service and ranger horses was begun at the Yancy Hay Ranch on the 6th with a total of 41 horses. 12½ tons of hay have been fed.

There has been a limited amount of elk feeding at the Gardiner Ranch at intervals during the last ten days of the month, and several truck loads have been removed to Mammoth for use at the elk catching pen and to feed the elk and deer in the immediate vicinity of headquarters; we are feeding daily at this point about 36 deer and half as many elk. Eleven tons of hay have been fed from the Gardiner Ranch.

Other Items of Interest

Phone communications, except for a few temporary breaks, have been very good throughout the month and reports have been regularly and promptly received from all stations. Conditions, except as hereinbefore noted, are good.

A local chapter of the Izank Walton League of America was organized in Yellowstone Park on the 10th, the charter membership being 67. This is the second League Chapter for the District of Wyoming and the first to be organized within a National Park. Hon. John W. Meldrum, United States Commissioner for Yellowstone Park, has been proposed and accepted as an Honorary Life Member.

An unusually large number of applications for temporary ranger appointments are being received. These inquiries, unless the applicant is clearly not qualified, are promptly answered by circular letter with questionnaire attached. In all cases where the applicant is clearly disqualified he is promptly advised that by reason of the particular disqualification noted in his letter his application cannot be favorably considered at this time and upon removal of the disqualification he is invited to renew his application. Most of our temporary rangers of last season have expressed their desire to return again this year; at least 45 of this number merit favorable consideration. The members of the permanent force total 31, which accounts for a possible 76 of our authorized summer strength of 83. Considering the ranger line-up from this basis it will be seen that the new appointments this year may not exceed seven in number. There will be several hundred

applicants and among them will be a very considerable number of splendidly qualified young men with endorsements of excellent quality. It will not be an easy matter to make selections for these appointments. Selections for appointments will be made early in April and all applicants will be promptly notified thereafter as to whether or not they have been selected.

The elk shipments this month consisted of two - a male and female individually crated, to the J. H. Adam Memorial Hospital, Poughkeepsie, New York, (This shipment was made on the 14th), and a carload shipment consisting of 9 males and 33 females to the State Fish and Game Commissioner of Utah, destination, Cedar City, Utah, made on the 21st.

VI. MUSEUM, NATURE GUIDE WORK, EDUCATIONAL WORK.

The Park Naturalist was detailed to work with Chief Park Naturalist Ansel Hall, at Yosemite, during the latter part of the month and for that reason no report has come from his department.

Cordially yours,

Leroy Hill,
Acting Superintendent.

The Director,
National Park Service,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WEATHER BUREAU.

MONTHLY METEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY.

Station, Yellowstone Park, Wyo.; month, J A N U A R Y, 1925., 19

Date.	TEMPERATURE. (Degrees Fahrenheit.)			Precipitation. (In inches and hundredths.)	Character of day.	Sun-shine, per-cent-age.	ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE. (Reduced to sea level; inches and hundredths.)	
	Max.	Min.	Mean.				Mean	lowest
1	29	20	24	.03	Cloudy	40	30.15	20
2	26	17	22	.05	Cloudy	28	30.55	25
3	23	8	16	.05	PtClay	49	29.70	
4	26	18	22	.02	Cloudy	10		
5	28	18	23	.09	Cloudy	4		
6	19	6	12	0	PtClay	35		
7	16	5	10	.04	PtClay	76		
8	22	9	16	.03	PtClay	49		
9	19	4	12	T	PtClay	66		
10	22	12	17	.06	Cloudy	13		
11	22	4	13	0	PtClay	96		
12	18	8	13	.01	Cloudy	9		
13	21	9	15	.02	Cloudy	21		
14	24	7	16	.10	Cloudy	0		
15	24	2	13	T	PtClay	85		
16	23	2	12	T	PtClay	46		
17	25	7	16	T	PtClay	42		
18	28	20	24	.03	Cloudy	3		
19	38	16	27	.01	PtClay	43		
20	30	15	22	T	PtClay	73		
21	31	24	28	T	Cloudy	28		
22	40	29	34	0	PtClay	62		
23	34	28	31	.01	Cloudy	24		
24	34	27	30	.20	Cloudy	0		
5	31	-3	14	.24	Cloudy	23		
6	24	-5	10	.03	Cloudy	66		
7	32	19	26	.06	Cloudy	39		
8	29	16	22	.04	PtClay	66		
9	35	26	30	.04	Cloudy	0		
10	42	32	37	.06	Cloudy	12		
11	35	24	30	.10	Cloudy	19		
Mean	27.4	13.7	20.6	1.32		36		

Mean for this month in

1871	80	89	15	98	15	07	15	16	7
1872	81	90	10	99	20	08	20	17	11
1873	82	91	20	00	22	09	21	18	16
1874	83	92	16	01	21	10	16	19	22
1875	84	93	17	02	17	11	21	20	23
1876	85	94	17	03	23	12	20	21	21
1877	86	95	19	04	19	13	14	22	12
1878	87	96	19	05	20	14	25	23	21
1879	88	97	11	06	16	06	22	15	19
Normal for this month			17.6					25	21
Absolute maximum for this month for			39						49
Absolute minimum for this month for			39						-41
Average daily excess (+) or deficiency (-) of this month as compared with the normal			3.0						
Accumulated excess (+) or deficiency (-) since January 1			92						
Average daily excess (+) or deficiency (-) since January 1			3.0						

PRECIPITATION.

Total this month 1.32; snowfall 14.3

Greatest precipitation in 24 hours 0.39, date 24-25

Snow on the ground at end of month 17.8

Total precipitation this month in

1871	80	89	1.05	98	0.31	07	2.44	16	2.60
1872	81	90	6.70	99	4.21	08	0.85	17	0.69
1873	82	91	0.48	00	0.90	09	1.61	18	1.98
1874	83	92	1.40	01	2.26	10	1.90	19	0.88
1875	84	93	1.82	02	0.96	11	4.56	20	0.28
1876	85	94	1.82	03	0.60	12	0.89	21	1.49
1877	86	95	4.76	04	0.23	13	2.60	22	0.74
1878	87	96	7.70	05	0.25	14	0.97	23	1.49
1879	88	97	3.93	06	1.12	06	1.48	15	0.41
Normal for this month			2.24					25	1.32
Excess (+) or deficiency (-) of this month as compared with the normal			-0.92						
Accumulated excess (+) or deficiency (-) since January 1			-0.92						

MEAN RELATIVE HUMIDITY (Percentage).

6 a. m., 76; Noon p. m., 69; 6 p. m., 74

WIND.

Prevailing direction South; total movement 8092 miles;

average hourly velocity 10.9; maximum velocity (for five minutes) 37 miles per hour, from South on 5

WEATHER.

Number of days, clear 0; partly cloudy 13; cloudy 18; on which .01 inch, or more, of precipitation occurred 22

MISCELLANEOUS PHENOMENA (dates of).

Auroras 0; halos: solar 0, lunar 0

Hail 0; sleet 0; fog 0

Thunderstorms 0

*Frost: light ---; heavy ---; killing ---

NOTE.—“T” indicates trace of precipitation.
In the autumn frosts are not recorded after the occurrence of “killing,” except in Florida and along the immediate coast of the Gulf of Mexico.

E. H. Fletcher, Meteorologist.
Weather Bureau.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

WEATHER BUREAU.

MONTHLY

METEOROLOGICAL SUMMARY.

STATION

Yellowstone Park, Wyo.

MONTH

JAN 1925

19

8-1660